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Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 25 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Initially, the office action rejects claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to unpatentable subject matter. The claim is herein amended to recite a recordable recording medium having a computer program thereon. Thus it is submitted that as amended the claim is directed to patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Next, the office action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended to address this rejection. Withdrawal is requested.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,318 to Picard. The rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As best understood, the technique described in Picard relates to a system for providing access to messages stored in a unified multimedia mail box through pathways such as over a telephone network and over the internet. However, in this system, because the terminals used for accessing it are changed from session to session (lines 15-17 in col. 4), it is believed that access from a telephone and access from a PC are managed as different sessions. Further evidence of this is that email systems and voice mail systems have to initiate sessions differently. (See col. 12 lines 11-14). Further, in col. 10, lines 1-35 and col. 20 lines 15-20 which are cited as teaching the unified session information, as best understood only teach a browser operating on a PC. And it is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of the reference at col. 13, lines 20-62 similarly do not teach a unified session information.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the relied upon portions of Picard only teach the accessing of one type of medium in any single session. In contrast, in the system of the present

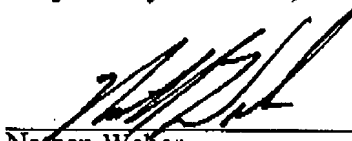
invention, respective process requests from respective information processes are transmitted from a user through respective different media in a single session. Further, these process requests are processed in accordance with the unified session information. In this manner it is possible to perform a series of information processes by using different medium which are different from one another in a single session.

For at least the reasons set forth above it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 24, and 25 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of Picard and are allowable. Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16, 21, and 23 depend from one of these claims and are therefore allowable therewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of the instant rejections is requested and it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner consider a telephone interview helpful, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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